

MORNING PRAYER

Blessed are you, Sovereign God of all, to you be praise and glory for ever. In your tender compassion the dawn from on high is breaking upon us to dispel the lingering shadows of night. As we look for your coming among us this day, open our eyes to behold your presence and strengthen our hands to do your will, that the world may rejoice and give you praise. **Amen.**

PSALM 98

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Or Daily Office Lectionary from page 937 of the Book of Common Prayer

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Isaiah 1:1-9</i>	<i>Matthew 25:1-18</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>Isaiah 1:10-20</i>	<i>Luke 20:1-8</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Isaiah 1:21-31</i>	<i>Luke 20:9-18</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Isaiah 2:1-11</i>	<i>Luke 20:19-26</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Isaiah 2:12-22</i>	<i>Luke 20:27-40</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>Isaiah 3:8-15</i>	<i>Luke 20:41—21:4</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Isaiah 4:2-6</i>	<i>Luke 21:5-19</i>

REFLECTIONS: SILENT AND WRITTEN

PRAYERS

The Church throughout the World
The World: for peace and goodwill among neighbors
Our Nation and her Leaders
Our Community
Grace Episcopal Church
My own Thanksgivings and Concerns

THE LORD'S PRAYER

COLLECT

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** *Romans 15:13*

EVENING PRAYER

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Psalm 141:2

PSALM 4

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Or Daily Office Lectionary from page 937 of the Book of Common Prayer

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>2 Peter 3:1-10</i>	<i>Matt. 25:1-18</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>1 Thessalonians. 1:1-10</i>	<i>Luke 20:1-8</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>1 Thessalonians. 2:1-12</i>	<i>Luke 20:9-18</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>1 Thessalonians. 2:13-20</i>	<i>Luke 20:19-26</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>1 Thessalonians. 3:1-13</i>	<i>Luke 20:27-40</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>1 Thessalonians. 4:1-12</i>	<i>Luke 20:41—21:4</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>1 Thessalonians. 4:13-18</i>	<i>Luke 21:5-19</i>

REFLECTIONS: SILENT AND WRITTEN

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. **Amen.**

COLLECT

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. **Amen.**

THE SONG OF SIMEON

Lord, you now have set your servant free*
to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations, *
and the glory of your people Israel.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. **Amen.**

WEEK ONE: A SPIRITUAL HOUSECLEANING

Advent is finally here. Finally we can wait. That is what Advent is about. We are waiting on Christ to return, both to restore justice and peace to the earth ultimately but also to come again seasonally at Christmas. So Advent is also about preparation.

Christ is given the name *Emmanuel* at the proclamations of his birth. That means “God with us.” And the other name for Christmas in our Book of Common Prayer is the Feast of the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Incarnation* theologically refers to God being *enfleshed*, being born as a human being to be with us.

God comes to us, that is our faith, but it also a not-yet faith of waiting on the completion of the promises of justice and peace and “goodwill to all humanity.” So we have work to do, and liturgy means “work.”

Our liturgy, our worship breathes throughout the year to reflect the changes in church seasons and to retell the story of Jesus Christ. We begin again in Advent, in simple waiting, quietly confessing that God comes to us when we are unworthy, this treasure in clay jars as Paul writes. We begin this week to clean out for the Coming of the Christ.

But this is not *mere* penitence but preparation, so we prepare for Christ’s coming with joy as well. We recall the promises of God and our hope in prayer, Scripture, and song. The service becomes more formal as we move toward the great feast of Christmas, so listen for little hints of the coming celebration as well.

Our congregational homework this season is daily prayer, and these short guides are a way of getting started. They follow a simplified version of the Daily Offices of the Book of Common Prayer, and include the readings from the Office Readings for Year A. You can find these along with the daily assigned Psalms on page 937.

I want you to engage the traditions of the faith. So join us on Wednesdays for a class on the Book of Common Prayer, the second text of the Anglican/Episcopal tradition. For reflection, join Mike McManus on Sunday mornings at nine for his Nouwen class or the Quiet Day to prepare. There are many opportunities to study here.

And don’t forget to serve the least as we prepare, we don’t want our Lord to find those in our care hungry while we servants are so well fed.

Worship, Study, and Service with an ethic of Welcome. That is how we incarnate Grace. It’s our way of life.



ADVENT DAILY PRAYER

*In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*
Isaiah 40:3

CONFESSION

Most merciful God, we confess to you,
before the whole company of heaven and one another,
that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do.

Forgive us our sins, heal us by your Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ. **Amen.**

O, Lord, open our lips,
and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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